

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicant would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for acknowledgement of Applicant's Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the Official Action, and for indicating that the drawings are acceptable.

Upon entry of the above amendments claims 1-3, 5 and 6 will have been amended. Claims 1-6 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejection, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, in particular the "steps" recited in claim 6, line 9. Without acquiescing to the propriety of the objection, claim 6 has been amended to recite that the region connected to the side surface of the can housing is in the shape of a "step", clearly shown in Fig. 7. Therefore, the objection to the drawings is believed to be moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA, Figs. 1-3) in view of DAOUD (U.S. Patent No. 5,989,062) or OTTO et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,624,276).

Applicant, however, respectfully traverses the above-noted rejections and submits that they are inappropriate for at least each of the following reasons.

In particular, claim 1 as amended, recites, inter alia, a connector that supplies an electric current to an airbag module, a clip integrally formed with the connector in such a manner that the clip is protruded from the connector, the clip having an insertion opening, and a connector bracket attached to the airbag case, the connector bracket being inserted in the insertion opening of the clip and having an engagement hole provided at one side thereof so that the hook of the clip is engaged in the engagement hole.

Applicant submits that neither AAPA, DAOUD or OTTO, alone or in any proper combination, disclose a connector bracket attached to the airbag case, the connector bracket being inserted in the insertion opening of the clip and having an engagement hole provided at one side thereof so that the hook of the clip is engaged in the engagement hole.

The Examiner cites to DAOUD (elements 234 and 236) and OTTO (elements 34, and 38) as purportedly disclosing brackets having engagement holes. However, the elements (234 and 236) in DAOUD, which the Examiner has characterized as being a bracket with an engagement hole is in fact a frame provided with a plurality of arms extending perpendicular to a side of the frame (Col. 3, lines 55-60). Further, the most that OTTO discloses is a carrier profile having a tongue, which the Examiner has characterized as being a bracket (Col. 4, lines 66-67). Thus, AAPA, DAOUD and OTTO fail to teach or suggest the claimed apparatus for fixing a connector of an airbag module; and DAOUD and OTTO fail to cure the deficiencies of the AAPA device; and even assuming, arguendo, that the teachings of AAPA, DAOUD and OTTO have been properly

combined, Applicant's claimed apparatus would not have resulted from the combined teachings thereof.

Another aspect of a feature of an embodiment of the present invention, as recited in claim 6, include, inter alia, the supporting part of the connector bracket is provided in such a manner that a connector supporting region of the supporting part is disposed at a position higher than that of a region attached to the side surface of the can housing so that the connector supporting region of the supporting part is connected to the region attached to the side surface of the can housing in the shape of a step with a predetermined height, thereby preventing interference between the connector and the can housing (see Specification, Page 13, lines 18-20).

Applicant further submits that neither AAPA, DAOUD or OTTO, alone or in any proper combination, disclose a *supporting part of the connector bracket provided in such a manner that a connector supporting region of the supporting part is disposed at a position higher than that of a region attached to the side surface of the can housing so that the connector supporting region of the supporting part is connected to the region attached to the side surface of the can housing in the shape of a step with a predetermined height*. Fig. 7 of the present application clearly shows the region attached to the side surface of the can housing in the shape of a step having a height "T", thereby preventing interference between the connector and the can housing (see Specification, Page 13, lines 18-20). Further, the Examiner has not explained where or how the aforementioned "step" is disclosed in any of the cited references. Thus, even

assuming, arguendo, that the teachings of AAPA, DAOUD and OTTO have been properly combined, Applicant's claimed apparatus would not have resulted from the combined teachings thereof.

Applicant further submits that AAPA is relevant to an apparatus for fixing a connector for an airbag module, while DAOUD and OTTO are both directed to telecommunication devices. Thus, the AAPA apparatus for fixing a connector for an airbag module is non-analogous to the telecommunication devices of DAOUD and OTTO. Therefore, the Examiner has not presented sufficient motivation for the proposed modification and the only reason to combine the teachings of the applied prior art results from a review of the Applicant's disclosure and the application of impermissible hindsight. Accordingly, the rejection of claims under 35 USC 103(a) is improper for all the above reasons and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments and the arguments herein, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 2-6, Applicant asserts that they are allowable on their own merit, as well as because they depend from independent claim 1, which Applicant has shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in any proper combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

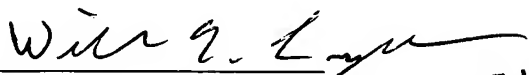
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an indication to that effect. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the recited claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims made in this amendment, which have not been made to overcome the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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